

SCHOOL to HOME

Connections

Chapter 5 Using Bar Models: Addition and Subtraction

Dear Family,

In this chapter, your child will learn to solve real-world problems involving addition and subtraction.

The key skill your child will practice is:

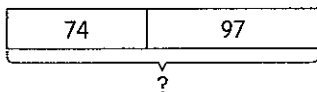
- using bar models to solve 2-step real-world problems on addition and on subtraction

Activity

The information in a real-world problem is presented as text rather than in mathematical notation. Children often have difficulty translating the English words into mathematical language. However, once they figure out the actual math equation, finding the solution is fairly simple. Here's an example of a real-world problem your child can solve using adding-on bar models:

John collected 74 big leaves and 97 small leaves one autumn day. How many leaves did he collect in all?

- Have your child read the text and pick out the important information: 74 big leaves and 97 small leaves. Then draw the models. (The bars do not have to be drawn exactly to scale.)



- Next have your child read the question and say what the question is asking.
- Finally, have your child perform the operation: $74 + 97 = 171$.

Vocabulary to Practice

The **sum** is the answer to an addition problem.

The **difference** is the answer to a subtraction problem.

A **bar model** helps to solve word problems. Bars are drawn, labeled with all the relevant information, and divided according to the situation in the word problem.

